

Appl. No. 10/823,132

Amdt. dated September 18, 2009

Reply to final office action of September 1, 2009

Remarks

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed on September 1, 2009. The Office Action rejected Claims 29-32, 38, 40-41, 43-44 and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by EP 792041 ("Johnson"). Claims 39 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in light of Johnson and U.S. Patent 6,104,815 ("Alcorn"). Claims 33-37 and 42 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Office Action also rejected Claim 44 under 35 U.S.C §112(second paragraph) as being indefinite.

Applicant has canceled Claims 33, 41-42 and 48-49. Applicant has amended independent Claims 29, 34-38 and 43-44 to incorporate the allowable subject matter. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the present application in view of the following remarks. Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 29

Independent Claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 33. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of independent Claim 29 be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 38

Independent Claim 38 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 42 and intervening Claim 41. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of independent Claim 38 be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 44

Independent Claim 44 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to recited "storage medium" to overcome the 35 U.S.C §112(second paragraph) rejection. Claim 44 has also been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 33. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of independent Claim 44 be withdrawn.

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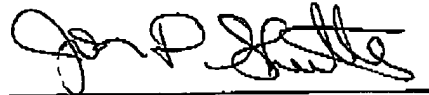
Dependent Claims 30, 32, 34-37, 39-40, 43, 45 and 47

Applicant's dependent Claims 30, 32, 34-37, 39-40, 43, 45 and 47 are allowable at least for the reason that they depend upon allowable base claims. In addition, these claims include features that are not disclosed by the cited references.

Conclusion

With the present response, all the issues in the Office Action mailed September 1, 2009 have been addressed. Applicant submits that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. If any issues remain, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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